

ROBBERY OF THE CITY TREASURY.

\$420,000 STOLEN.

THE HACKLEY CONTRACT.

FERNANDO WOOD TAKES \$350,000.

THE COMMON COUNCIL \$40,000.

Startling Disclosure by the Grand Jury.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 26, 1861.

NELSON J. WATERBURY, Esq., District Attorney.

Messrs. Isaac H. Bailey, Richard A. Reading, and Edward Cooper.

GENTLEMEN:—As reply to your letter of yesterday, I respectfully state that there is no objection whatever to the publication of the evidence to which you refer. On the contrary it is only a matter of justice to the electors of this city, that they should know that Fernando Wood is indirectly the owner of one-quarter of Mr. Hackley's contract. Although the evidence obtained was not sufficient to justify an indictment, owing to technical causes of which you are aware, there is enough to satisfy any man as to the substantial facts of the case.

I have carefully collated the whole of the evidence taken which relates to the connection of the brothers Wood with this matter, which is transmitted herewith. For the better understanding of the subject, it should be stated that there was first a negotiation with certain parties for the granting of a contract to them, and the bid of George C. Byrne. The evidence of Messrs. Byrne, Williams, Wesley, Conover, Garrison and Clapp, relates to this negotiation, which was unsuccessful. Afterward a contract was granted to Mr. Hackley, at the rate of \$273,000 a year, although a reasonable man proposed to do the work at \$84,000 a year less. One-fourth of this contract is owned by Benjamin Wood, the Mayor's brother, as is proved positively by one of the brothers Hope, the sureties to, and part owners of the contract, and upon information by the other.

Tax-payers and others interested in the economical administration of the city finances will now perceive the reason why Mayor Wood, who made a rule that he could not approve a resolution to pay a bill amounting to only a few dollars until he had caused the expenditure of a larger amount in advertising that it was before him for consideration, could nevertheless wait at the Mayor's office until nearly midnight for the purpose of signing the resolution granting the contract to Hackley before there was an opportunity to stop him by an injunction. Laboring men will also learn why the contractor has found it necessary to reduce their wages to *nearly cents a day*, when they have the evidence, which is now presented to them, that he has to pay one-quarter of the proceeds of the contract to the Mayor's brother as a gratuity.

If any enemy should enter the city plundering its inhabitants of their property, how eagerly would every man rush forward to repel him. Yet with what strange apathy will our citizens suffer one of their own officers to defraud them year by year, seizing one-quarter or \$67,750 a year for five years, as his proportion of a single contract. The bare possibility of such a calamity and disgrace as his reelection, should impel them to an earnestness of action, which should rise above the petty squabbles of partisanship, and the miserable schemes of personal ambition, which now threaten to distract them.

While I do not believe the re-election of Fernando Wood to be at all probable, it is just to say that if the people of this city permit its accomplishment, they deserve to suffer the penalties which will inflict upon them. However, it may be no part of my duty to comment on the nomination of the Mayor with this contract; but an honest interest, Mr. Hackley has an interest, to be paid to him, and I have no objection to his receiving it.

Taken under oath before the Grand Jury, reduced to writing by the District Attorney, and read to the witness, April 17, 1861.

R. A. READING, Foreman.

DISTRICT-ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, NEW-YORK, November 27, 1861.

MESSRS. ISAAC H. BAILEY, RICHARD A. READING, and EDWARD COOPER.

GENTLEMEN:—As reply to your letter of yesterday, I respectfully state that there is no objection whatever to the publication of the evidence to which you refer. On the contrary it is only a matter of justice to the electors of this city, that they should know that Fernando Wood is indirectly the owner of one-quarter of Mr. Hackley's contract. Although the evidence obtained was not sufficient to justify an indictment, owing to technical causes of which you are aware, there is enough to satisfy any man as to the substantial facts of the case.

I have carefully collated the whole of the evidence taken which relates to the connection of the brothers Wood with this matter, which is transmitted herewith. For the better understanding of the subject, it should be stated that there was first a negotiation with certain parties for the granting of a contract to them, and the bid of George C. Byrne. The evidence of Messrs. Byrne, Williams, Wesley, Conover, Garrison and Clapp, relates to this negotiation, which was unsuccessful. Afterward a contract was granted to Mr. Hackley, at the rate of \$273,000 a year, although a reasonable man proposed to do the work at \$84,000 a year less. One-fourth of this contract is owned by Benjamin Wood, the Mayor's brother, as is proved positively by one of the brothers Hope, the sureties to, and part owners of the contract, and upon information by the other.

Thomas Hope avers—I reside at No. 143 Hudson street, at the New-York Hotel; my name signed to bond to Hackley's contract is my writing. [I have no interest in the contract; a quarter interest my individual interest.

My brother has an interest, Mr. Hackley has an interest, to be paid to him, and I have no objection to his receiving it.

Taken under oath before the Grand Jury, reduced to writing by the District Attorney, and read to the witness, April 17, 1861.

R. A. READING, Foreman.

FERNANDO AS A PEACE-MAKER.

HE IS NOT AFRAID OF FORT LAFAYETTE.

THE NORTHERN SECESSION PLATFORM.

It would hardly be possible to imagine a greater contrast than was presented by the ratification meeting of Fernando Wood's party last evening at the Cooper Institute to the Tax-Payer's meeting held in the same place on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of ratifying the nomination of Mr. Odyke by us for the position of a single contract. The bare possibility of such a calamity and disgrace as his reelection, should impel them to an earnestness of action, which should rise above the petty squabbles of partisanship, and the miserable schemes of personal ambition, which now threaten to distract them.

If any enemy should enter the city plundering its inhabitants of their property, how eagerly would every man rush forward to repel him. Yet with what strange apathy will our citizens suffer one of their own officers to defraud them year by year, seizing one-quarter or \$67,750 a year for five years, as his proportion of a single contract. The bare possibility of such a calamity and disgrace as his reelection, should impel them to an earnestness of action, which should rise above the petty squabbles of partisanship, and the miserable schemes of personal ambition, which now threaten to distract them.

At 7 o'clock, BENJAMIN RAY called the meeting to order, and nominated the Hon. James Wadsworth for President. The nomination was seconded.

Mr. WADSWORTH, on taking the chair, pronounced an eloquent on Fernando Wood, whom he called the only man who could secure the peace of the city in these times of trial, he having the nerve and iron will which was equal to the part. He inveighed against the Metropolitan Police, the Maine law, and the Registry law. He concluded by hoping that they would be true to the Constitution, truly to liberty, true to law, and true to Fernando Wood. [Applause, loud and long.]

Mr. JOHN M. HARRINGTON read a list of Vice-Presidents, and Mr. GEORGE M. DREW a list of Secretaries. Both were induced.

Geo. G. Green, esq., then read the audacious speech of Fernando Wood.

We, the National Democrats of the City of New-York, in mass meeting assembled, do solemnly declare our devotion to the Union and our steadfast hope of its re-establishment, relying on us that the *just and benign principles of true Democracy*; and *everlastingly deriving that the political independence of the States* from the Federal Government.

Resolved: That we cordially ratify and confirm the nomination of Fernando Wood (loud applause) for Mayor of the City of New-York, and that he should and may be elected.

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